

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were examined; and Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 were rejected. Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 were allowable; and Claims 15-26 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claim 6 and cancel claims 15-26. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1, 3-5 and 8-9, in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejects Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,688 to Akagawa ("Akagawa"). It is axiomatic that to be anticipated, every limitation of a claim must be disclosed in a single reference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above and submit that independent Claim 1, as amended, is allowable for at least the reason that Akagawa does not teach a conductive material comprising a unidirectional electrical conductivity configured to be in a direction corresponding to a projection to or from a contact point in a second conductive material as required by Claim 1. According to Claim 1, as amended, for example, a conductive material may have a unidirectional conductivity, in that direction being the direction corresponding to a projection to and from a contact point and a second conductive material.

Akagawa teaches an isotropic conductive sheet formed with conductive fillers, such as metal particles, in a resin (see Abstract). For example, Akagawa teaches that the application of pressure causes the conductive filler metallic powder to become conductive due to the continuity of the conductive filler powder. (see Col. 4, lines 11-17 and Figures 2-3 and 7-8).

However, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or description in Akagawa of a unidirectional electrical conductivity in a direction to or from a contact point and a conductive material, as required by amended Claim 1. Specifically, Akagawa teaches that the conductivity of sheath 38 exists between pressed portion of the sheet, such as between a pad and a circuit pattern (see Col. 6, lines 29-33; Col. 5, lines 12-20; Figure 2 and Figure 3). However, the conductivity between the pressed portions, although localized, is not unidirectional, but is omni-

directional. Specifically, when the conductive filler or metallic powder is pressed together between the pressed portion, the contact between filler particles creates a conductivity in all directions between the pressed portion (see Figures 2 and 3). This conduction is not unidirectional. For example, if pad 36 of Figure 2 were two pads instead of one sheet 38 would provide conductivity between both of the pads as well as between both of the pads and circuit pattern 40. On the other hand, a unidirectional electrical conductivity would not cause conductivity between both of the pads formed by splitting pad 36.

Moreover, addressing the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action, where the Patent Office refers to Applicants' Specification at page 7, lines 4-6, and the limitation of Claim 1. First, Claim 1 requires a material having a unidirectional electrical conductivity, which may include various materials in addition to material 115, or the material described in Applicants' Specification at pg. 7, lines 4-6. Moreover, Applicant provides the following examples without limiting the claims thereto. Applicants' Specification at page 7, lines 4-6, describes orienting the directionality of conductivity of unidirectional electronic conductive material 115 by mechanically stretching or stressing material 115. However, regardless of the oriented directionality of conductivity, material 115 is still a unidirectional electronic conductive material, as to where, as noted above, the conductivity between pressed portions of Akagawa is not unidirectional, but is omni-directional, as there is conductivity in all directions between the pressed portions (see, Figs. 2 and 3 of Akagawa). On the other hand, a conductive material, as required by Claim 1 (e.g., such as material 115), has a unidirectional conductivity configured to be in a direction corresponding to a projection to or from a contact point and a second conductive material. In the case of material noted at pg. 7, lines 4-6 of the Specification, this unidirectionality of conductivity exists regardless of stretching or stressing to orient the directionality of conductivity of the film. Thus, in this example, the unidirectional electrical conductivity in a direction that may be oriented by stretching or stressing material 115 is not omnidirectional conductivity to be in more than one direction, which is what the application of pressure causes to happen to the conductive filler metallic powder of Akagawa.

Thus, the first conductive material of Applicants' claims would not include an isotropic conductive sheet 38 of Akagawa, since that sheet is omni-directional where the pressed portion is. Note that this exclusion applies only to an anisotropic conductive sheet, as described with respect to sheet 38 of Akagawa.

Hence, for at least these reason, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for Claim 1.

Applicants assert that dependent Claims 3-5 and 8-9 being dependent upon allowable base Claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons described. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for those dependent claims.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants note with appreciation the Patent Office finding Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 23, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


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August 23, 2005